

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----092745 291930Z /42

O 291648Z JUN 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1215
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JERUSALEM 1773

EXDIS

EO 11652 XGDS 1 AND XGDS 2
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE
SUBJ: FULL REPORT ON JOHAN'S MISSION

REF JERUSALEM 1735

1. UN SOURCE HAS PROVIDED US JUNE 29 WITH A COPY OF UN
OFFICIAL JOHAH'S RECENT MISSION TO MIDDLE EAST ON UNIFIL.
THIS REPORT INCLUDES HIS MEETING WITH RON IN JERUSALEM AS
WELL AS HIS MEETINGS IN BEIRUT WITH HOSS, BOUTROS, AND
ARAFAT. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT:

2. BEGIN TEXT: "FROM JOHAH, BEIRUT, JUNE 28.
SINCE ARRIVAL IN BEIRUT ON SUNDAY 25 JUNE, WE HAVE HAD
EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL ERSKINE AND MEMBERS OF
HIS STAFF IN NAQOURA. I HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO ELUCIDATE UPON
YOUR CONCEPTION ON HOW UNIFIL SHOULD STRINGENTLY PREVENT
INFILTRATION INTO UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATION.
I HAVE ALSO CLARIFIED IN DETAIL YOUR CONCEPTIONS
AND INSTRUCTIONS IN THE MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO SMALL
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NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS THAT ARE SAID TO HAVE REMAINED
IN UNIFIL'S AREA THROUGHOUT. IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTING
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ERSKINE HAS ISSUED NEW INSTRUCTIONS
REGARDING MEASURES TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND CONTROL
OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLY.

3. "WITHIN TWO DAYS I HAVE VISITED EVERY NATIONAL CON-

TINGENT AND HELD DISCUSSIONS IN BATTALION HQS WITH EACH OF THE BATTALION COMMANDERS. I HAVE FOCUSED ATTENTION PRIMARILY ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND PROBED DEEPLY INTO THEIR ESTIMATION OF ARMED PRESENCE IN THEIR AREAS AND WHETHER OR NOT CONTROLLED SUPPLIES ARE BEING MADE TO SUCH ARMED ELEMENTS. FULL DETAILS OF MY FINDINGS WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU DURING BRIEFING IN GENEVA. I CAN SAY AT THIS JUNCTURE, THAT FINDINGS ARE A FAR CRY FROM MANY EXAGGERATED REPORTS OF MASSIVE INFILTRATION INTO UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATIONS AND THEY ALSO CONTRADICT REPORTS OF TRUCK LOADS OF SUPPLIES GOING TO ARMED ELEMENTS THROUGH UNIFIL'S LINES.

4. DURING MY VISIT TO JERUSALEM ON EVENING OF 26 JUNE AND MORNING OF 27 JUNE, I EXPLAINED TO SIILASVUO THE PRUPOSE OF MY VISIT AND BRIEFED HIM ON MY DISCUSSIONS WITH ERSKINE HIS HQ STAFF IN NAQOURA. I GAVE HIM DETAILS OF FINDINGS OF INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREAS THAT I HAD VISITED BY THEN. WE FURTHER EXCHANGED VIEWS ON UNIFIL'S EFFORTS TO DEPLOY IN ENCLAVE EVACUATED BY IDF ON 13 JUNE AS WELL AS MANNER AND TIMING OF DESPATCHING LEBANESE ARMY TO THE SOUTH.

5. "WHILE IN JERUSALEM I ALSO MET MR. RON, HEAD OF UN DEPARTMENT IN ISRAELI FOREING MINISTRY. I ELABORATED UPON STRINGENT PROCEDURES BEING FOLLOWED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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UNIFIL TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND GAVE HIM ASSURANCES THAT NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO LIMITED GROUPS ARE FAR LESS THAN THE MAGNITUDE BEING CIRCULATED IN THE MEDIA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 JERUSALEM 1773

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IN THIS CONNECTION I CATEGORICALLY AFFIRMED THAT NO SECRET AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED WITH CHAIRMAN ARAFAT WHEN ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES. WHILE RON APPEARED TO BE SATISFIED WITH ASSURANCE ON SO CALLED QUOTE GUERILLAS AND MURDERERS UNQUOTE I ALSO INFORMED RON THAT THOROUGH INVESTIGATION BY UNIFIL OF OVERLAY SUPPLIED BY PLO ON LOCATION AND NUMBERS OF ARMED MEN THAT ARE SAID TO HAVE REMAINED IN THE SOUTH THROUGHOUT IDF INTERVENTION, PRODUCED FIGURES EXCEEDINGLY LOWER THAN ESTIMATE CONTAINED IN OVERLAY AS YOU MAY RECALL, ESTIMATE OF TWO BATTALIONS REPRESENTED IN OVERLAY RANGED BETWEEN 500 TO 1,000 MEN. FIGURE OF UNIFIL IS ROUGHLY 190. RON INSISTED THAT THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE REPORT INDICATES A HIGHER FIGURE, CLOSE TO THAT OF PLO.

6. WITH RESPECT TO YOUR LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ON NEED FOR ISRAEL TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO FACILITATE UNIFIL'S DEPLOYMENT IN THE SOUTH, RON DID NOT KNOW WHEN REPLY WOULD BE SENT. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT ISRAEL IS IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE EITHER HADDAD OR MILITIA. HE PRESSED BELIEF THAT UNTIL PALESTINIAN
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ELEMENTS EVACUATED FROM THE SOUTH, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SECURE COOPERATION OF CHRISTIAN ARMED ELEMENTS.

7. THIS MORNING MET SEPARATELY PRIME MINISTER EL HOSS AND FOREIGN AND DEFENCE MINISTER BOUTROS. I BRIEFED BOTH OF THEM ON UNIFIL'S EFFORTS ON MATTER OF INFILTRATION AND CONTROL OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES. THEY EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PROCEDURES WE HAVE ADOPTED IN THIS REGARD. CONCERNING YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO ERSKINE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH ARMED CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS AND YOUR PREFERENCE FOR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE FULL UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES, EL HOSS AND BOUTROS ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH UNIFIL FINDS ITSELF AND I EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING FOR YOUR POSITION. EL HOSS EMPHASIZED THAT UNTIL UNIFIL DEPLOYS COMPLETELY IN CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES AND IS READY TO HAND OVER THE AREA TO GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON, HIS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT SEND ELEMENTS OF ITS ARMY TO THE SOUTH. SHOULD UNIFIL

BE UNABLE TO DEPLOY FULLY IN THE SOUTH, THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WILL HAVE TO TAKE DECISION TO FORCIBLY DEPLOY ITS FORCES IN THE ENCLAVE. THIS DIFFICULT DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN TAKEN AND HE DOUBTS THAT A CONSENSUS EXISTS FOR SUCH A DRASTIC ACTION BY THE ARMY.

8. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH EL HOSS AND BOUTROS I MET CHAIRMAN ARAFAT TO REVIEW WITH HIM UNIFIL'S NEW DIRECTIVES ON CONTROL OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT INFILTRATION. HE EXPRESSED DISAGREEMENT ONLY WITH OUR INSISTENCE THAT ARMED MEN SHOULD NOT MOVE OUT OF CONFINED AREAS. HOWEVER, THERE WAS MAJOR DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN UNIFIL'S FINDINGS OF 190 ARMED PALESTINIANS AND ARAFAT'S FIGURE OF 22 BATTALIONS. I EMPHASIZED THAT YOU WILL PLACE RELIANCE ON UNIFIL'S FIGURE AND WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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GUIDED BY IT. MORE DETAILS ON THIS AND OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED WITH ARAFAT SHALL BE GIVEN AT MY BRIEFING IN GENEVA. END TEXT.

9. COMMENT: JONAH'S VISIT WAS USEFUL IN OBTAINING WHAT HE REGARDS AS ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF ARMED PALESTINIANS IN THE AREA AND IN TIGHTENING UP UN PROCEDURES DESIGNED TO KEEP THEM UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND ENSURING ONLY NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES ARE DELIVERED. OTHERWISE, IT WOULD APPEAR HE DID NOT GET MUCH HELP FROM EITHER GOI OR GOL. NEWLIN

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